


David Whitaker, Esq.
Director
Irvin Corley, Jr.
Executive Policy Manager
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.
Senior City Planner
Janese Chapman
Deputy Director

John Alexander
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.
Nur Barre
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP
Elizabeth Cabot, Esq.
Tasha Cowan
George Etheridge

City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Christopher Gulock, AICP
Derrick Headd
Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Kimani Jeffrey
Anne Marie Langan
Jamie Murphy
Kim Newby
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
Jennifer Reinhardt
Rebecca Savage
Sabrina Shockley
Thomas Stephens, Esq.
David Teeter
Theresa Thomas
Kathryn L. Underwood, MUP
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David D. Whitaker 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 27, 2020

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR WHITMER TO IMPLEMENT
POLICIES ALLOWING RETURNING CITIZENS TO TOW
VEHICLES ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

On July 2, 2020, the Honorable Council President Brenda Jones requested that the Legislative Policy Division draft a resolution urging Governor Whitmer to implement policies allowing returning citizens to tow vehicles on behalf of the State of Michigan.

The draft resolution is attached for your review.

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES

**RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR WHITMER TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES
ALLOWING RETURNING CITIZENS TO TOW VEHICLES ON BEHALF OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated people need stable jobs, access to commerce for the same reasons as everyone else: to support themselves and their loved ones, pursue life goals, which culminates in strengthening our community; and

WHEREAS, In April 2011, The Pew Research Center released the report, *Revolving Door of America's Prisons*, which suggests that if states could lower recidivism rates by just 10 percent, they could save an average of \$635 million annually; and

WHEREAS, After decades of repressive laws and policies that continue to punish offenders well after they have completed their sentences, even hard line law and order advocates are finally admitting, that discriminatory policies, make reentry into the community extremely difficult for someone previously incarcerated. But most importantly, they are recognizing the potential cost savings to government by reforming this system; and

WHEREAS, On September 7, 2018, then Gov. Snyder signed an executive directive instructing all state departments and agencies to remove the felony question box; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council is committed to welcoming returning citizens into the community by implementing ordinances that remove barriers for housing and employment, in an efforts to decrease rates of recidivism:

- In 2010, the City enacted the "Ban the Box" ordinance, which limits questioning applicants about criminal convictions until after they are determined to be qualified for hiring.
- Further, in 2012 the City also asked its vendor and contractors to remove the conviction history question from job applications; and
- Council Member Ayers, introduced the *Fair Chance Access to Rental Housing Ordinance*, affords citizens with criminal records a fair opportunity to secure housing by regulating the use of criminal background checks as part of the tenant screening process. The ordinance became effective in July 2019; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council urges Michigan Governor Whitmer to implement policies allowing returning citizens in the state of Michigan to tow vehicles on behalf of the State of Michigan; **BiE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Mayor, the City's lobbyist, the Detroit delegation in the Michigan House and Senate and the Governor.